

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 AMMAN 02866 170958Z

20

ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 SR-02 ORM-03 DRC-01 SAB-01 SAM-01 /113 W

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R 170930Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1429

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

USINT DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION USUN

UNCLAS AMMAN 2866

GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, IS, JO, XF

SUBJECT: JORDANIAN PRESS REACTION TO ISRAELI RAIDS IN LEBANON

1. JORDANIAN PRESS MAY 17 RAN LENGTHY ACCOUNT ISRAELI AIR RAIDS IN LEBANON MAY 16, FOLLOWING MAALOT INCIDENT, UNDER FOLLOWING HEADLINES: (AR RAY) "36 ISRAELI WARPLANES RAIDED LEBANON; BATTER PALESTINIAN REFUGEE CAMPS WITH GUNS, SHELLS AND ROCKETS; TENTATIVE FIGURES: OVER 50 KILLED, 200 INJURED AND EXTENSIVE DESTRUCTION". (AL DUSTOUR) "SCORES OF MARTYRED AND TENS OF INJURED, MOSTLY WOMEN AND CHILDREN"

2. PRESS ACCOUNTS ALLEGED "ISRAELI WARPLANES TOOK EXTREME CARE TO RAID REFUGEE SCHOOL IN EACH OF CAMPS (AIN AL HILWEH, NABTYYEH AND BURJ AL BARAJNEH)". MOST KILLED WERE WOMEN AND CHILDREN SINCE RETALIATORY RAIDS WERE EXPECTED, BUT NOT UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 AMMAN 02866 170958Z

AGAINST DENSELY POPULATED REFUGEE CAMPS. PRESS

ACCOUNT STATED ISRAELI CHIEF OF STAFF GENERAL GUR ADMITTED
OPENLY THE AIR RAIDS MUST BE CONSIDERED AS RETALIATORY OPERATIONS.

3. PRESS ALSO CARRIED ACCOUNT OF RADIO CAIRO ANNOUNCEMENT
OF EGYPTIAN FOMINISTER WARNING THAT ISRAELI ACTION MEANS
PERILOUS ESCALATION OF TENSION IN MIDEAST AND THAT ARAB WORLD
CANNOT STAND ALOOF FROM ISRAELI ACTIONS.

4. IN EDITORIAL COMMENT, AL DUSTOUR DEPLORED THE RAIDS,
STATING THAT "ISRAEL HAS ADDED NEW CRIME TO ITS PAST CRIMINAL
RECORD BY ITS COWARDLY ATTACK ON REFUGEE CAMPS. "EDITORIAL
ADVISED THAT ARABS MUST BE READY TO REPULSE SUCH ATTACKS EVEN
THOUGH THERE IS CURRENT EFFORT TO ACHIEVE MIDEAST PEACE. AR RAY
EDITORIAL ADVANCED OPINION THAT "ISRAELI TREACHERY" AT MAALOT
HAD CAUSED DEATH OF INNOCENT ISRAELI CHILDREN AND THAT ISRAEL
"TRIED TO HIDE ITS TREACHERY AT MAALOT BY AIR RAIDS AT REFUGEE
CAMPS IN LEBANON."
PICKERING

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NNN

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